

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/CA2004/001040

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F5/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>US 5 950 628 A (DUNFEE MATTHEW J) 14 September 1999 (1999-09-14)</p> <p>figures 1,4,5,9 column 17, line 4 - column 18, line 22 -----</p>	<p>1-8, 25-27, 29,31, 32,40</p>
X	<p>EP 0 864 308 A (CHANG IKCHUN) 16 September 1998 (1998-09-16)</p> <p>figures 6,8,9,10A,10B,11 column 1, line 3 - line 14 column 4, line 30 - line 37 column 5, line 7 - column 6, line 52 ----- -/-</p>	<p>1,2,4-8, 24-27, 29,32, 38,40</p>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

18 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

17.02.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 237 602 B1 (FACKLAM ROY A ET AL) 29 May 2001 (2001-05-29) figures 1,2,4,5,7,10,10a column 3, line 29 - column 5, line 17 column 6, line 40 - line 63 -----	1-7,17, 22-24
X	GB 1 119 904 A (GIOVANNI ZUMAGLINI) 17 July 1968 (1968-07-17) figures 1-3 page 2, line 62 - line 73 -----	1,2,40

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International application No.
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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 69, 70
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy: As can be seen from the description (see paragraphs 0002, 0003 and 0067), the methods according to claims 69 and 70 can be used for the treatment of back pain or scoliosis.
2. Claims Nos.: 68
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-45

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 69, 70

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy: As can be seen from the description (see paragraphs 0002, 0003 and 0067), the methods according to claims 69 and 70 can be used for the treatment of back pain or scoliosis.

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 68

Claim 68 does not specify any concrete technical features apart from defining its subject-matter as an actuator or an orthosis. Thus, claim 68 is totally unclear.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-45

An actuator comprising an inflatable bladder having an inlet for inflating said bladder.

2. claims: 46-67

A fluid-operable actuator comprising four sheets of material, an innermost pair of the sheets to form one or more bladders, and an outermost pair of the sheets having asymmetrical stretch properties.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members
International Application No
PCT/CA2004/001040

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5950628	A	14-09-1999	US 5724993 A US 5704904 A US 6237602 B1 AT 259199 T AU 699290 B2 AU 6382496 A CA 2228468 A1 DE 69631532 D1 DE 69631532 T2 EP 0837666 A1 IL 122495 A JP 2000507836 T NO 975754 A WO 9640036 A1 AU 6259698 A WO 9833456 A1	10-03-1998 06-01-1998 29-05-2001 15-02-2004 26-11-1998 30-12-1996 19-12-1996 18-03-2004 05-01-2005 29-04-1998 21-04-2002 27-06-2000 09-02-1998 19-12-1996 25-08-1998 06-08-1998
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